

SECTION: 10
DATE: February 18, 2021

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**RECOMMENDATION**

**APPOINTMENT OF CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents appoint Charles Simms to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of Detroit Public Safety Academy, and appoint Regina Walker to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence.

**STAFF SUMMARY**

According to the resolutions, which establish these public school academies (charter schools), vacancies on the Boards of Directors shall be filled by the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents.

**Detroit Public Safety Academy**

Charles Simms has served as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Fire Commissioner for the City of Detroit Fire Department in Detroit, Michigan since 2016. He earned both a Master of Education in Educational Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He is a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. He is a board member of the Medicine and Community Health Academy Advisory Board.

**Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence**

Regina Walker has worked as a Financial Professional at The Prudential Insurance Company of America in Troy, Michigan since 2007. She earned a Master of Science in Management from Walsh College in Troy, Michigan and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She is a certified professional in Retirement Income from The American College of Financial Services in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.



January 27, 2021

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**University Executive Officer**  
**Rhonda Longworth, Ph.D.**

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**Date**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**City of Detroit Fire Department                      Detroit, Michigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Fire Commissioner                      3/2016-Present**

Appointed by the Mayor and Executive Fire Commissioner to oversee and manage the Training, Fire Investigation, Fire Marshal, Communications and Community Relations Divisions. Create policies and procedures while implementing effective and efficient strategies that coincide with the vision of the City of Detroit Fire Department.

**Major Accomplishments:**

- Oversight and direct management of budgets in excess of 5 million dollars.
- Assist and share management of overall budget of 124 million dollars.
- Improved technology in the Training Division that led to more effective training rotations.
- Increased annual inspections of the Fire Marshal Division by 150%..
- Restructured Community Relations Division that led to an increase in community outreach.
- Spearheaded the Fire Department Apprenticeship Program for Detroit Public School students.
- Created Compliancy Team and implemented compliancy policies and strategies to escalate all department members to local and national standards.
- Appointed ISO manager to assist the department in drastically increasing its ISO rating.
- Created metrics to track progress and implement improvement strategies.
- Assist with improving website to improve the brand of the fire department.

**Chief of Arson and Fire Investigation Unit    2014 – 2016**

Appointed by the Mayor and Commissioner to oversee and manage personnel, budget, and overall responsibility of the unit. Create and implement strategies, policies, and practices to combat arson fires within the City of Detroit. Maintain informative and statistical data and graphics to track arson trends. Liaison with other law enforcement agencies, insurance agencies, and community groups to combat arson. Develop continuous training requirements and curriculum. Assisted with transition of newly created Arson Task Force, which included Detroit Police.

**Major Accomplishments:**

- Implemented an innovative strategic approach to divide the unit into quadrants to become better connected with the community to effectively and efficiently tackle arsons.
- Decreased suspicious fires by 14% in 2014 to the lowest number in the last 20 years.
- Increased arson arrest warrants by 15% in 2014 the most submitted in 12 years.
- Increased arson arrests by 110% for first 6 months of 2015.
- Developed a local arson tip line and arson billboard campaign by securing billboard funding from Michigan Arson Prevention Committee.
- Successfully wrote and secured a grant from the Michigan Automobile Theft and Prevention Authority for 2014, 2015, and 2016. Average grant award was \$112,000
- Managed 145,000 annual capital budget
- Selected by the Mayor's office to participate along with twelve other city leaders in the City of Detroit Lean Six Sigma Green Belt training.
- Established Officer development process.

**Fire Investigator, Captain    2012-2014**

Supervise and coordinate employees to effectively and efficiently investigate cause and origin of vehicle fires. Communicate and collaborate with insurance companies, private investigators, and other law enforcement agencies on strategies to deter fraudulent arson acts.

**Major Accomplishments:**

- Appointed as Financial Officer for Detroit Arson Section overseeing an Automobile Theft Prevention Authority Grant received by the State of Michigan.
- Maintained and updated statistical trends of automobile arsons within the City of Detroit utilizing PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and graphs.

***Fire Investigator, Lieutenant 2001-2012***

Conduct investigations to determine cause and origin of fires, collect evidence, and perform arrests and interrogations. Prepare warrants and necessary documentation to secure convictions. Testify as qualified expert witness on fire cause and origin in 36<sup>th</sup> District and 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court.

**Major Accomplishments:**

- Received three Commissioner's Individual Commendations in October 2006 for three separate incidents in 2005 involving courage and risks taken to arrest arsonists.
- Outstanding Leadership Award – Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, August 2002 selected by fellow training academy classmates and instructors.
- Lead the unit in number of investigations and arrests for multiple years - officer in charge in over 3,000 fire investigations and submitted over 300 felony arson arrest warrants.

***Firefighter 1986-2001***

Responded to emergency situations to protect life and property through fire suppression methods. Participated in search and rescue operations. Assessed emergency situations to make critical decisions on fire and medical needs. Operated fire fighting equipment including engines, ladder trucks, and tactical, mobile squads. Prepared fire reports, daily time sheets, payroll, and other routine paperwork. Served as sergeant and had command over fire scenes and personnel.

**Major Accomplishments:**

- Firehouse Magazine Heroism and Community Service Award, February 2001.
- Commissioner's Citation Award, May 2000.
- Detroit Fire Fighters Association's Citation of Valor, November 1999 for the heroic rescue of a child from a burning house.
- Detroit Fire Fighters Association's Outstanding Achievement Award, November 1999.

**Detroit Fire Fighters Association, Local 344 Detroit, Michigan**

***4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Union Director 1996-1999***

Promoted the interest of union members from the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Represented members on departmental charges. Proficient in applying departmental rules and regulations. Interacted on a national level to represent the Detroit Fire Department. Wrote monthly articles for the local union magazine.

**Major Accomplishments:**

- Chairman of the Safety Committee, facilitated the review and approval by the union of fire safety equipment.
- Member of Political Action Committee, interacted with lobbyist, politicians, and city government.

**EDUCATION:**

**Wayne State University Detroit, MI**  
Masters of Education, Educational Psychology – May 2015  
GPA 3.63

**Wayne State University Detroit, MI**  
Bachelor of Arts, Major in Psychology and minor in Business Administration – December 1996

**CERTIFICATION HISTORY:**

Lean Six Sigma Green Belt; Nationally Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator; Hazardous Materials; Confined Space; Emergency Medical Technician; Weapons of Mass Destruction

**ASSESSMENT EXPERIENCE:**

Milwaukee Fire Department – Deputy Chief  
Miami Fire-Rescue Department – Battalion Chief

Baltimore Fire Department – Battalion Chief  
El Paso Fire Department – Deputy Chief

**AFFILIATIONS:**

Board Member, Medicine and Community Health Academy Advisory Board  
Board Member, Emergency Medical Service Advisory Board  
Board Member, State of Michigan Fire Service Coordinating Committee  
Board Member, Wayne County Fire Fighter Training Committee  
Member, International Association of Arson Investigators  
Member, National Association of Fire Investigators  
Member, Phoenix of the Detroit Fire Department

# Regina M. Walker

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

March 2007 – Present

The Prudential Insurance Company of America

Troy, MI

### Financial Professional

- Call on policyholders to deliver and explain policy, analyze insurance program and suggest additions or changes, or to change beneficiaries
- Calculate premiums and establish payment method
- Customize insurance and investment products to suit individual customers, often covering a variety of risks
- Sell various types of insurance and investment products to business and individuals on behalf of Prudential
- Interview prospective clients to obtain data about their financial resources and needs, the physical condition of the person to be insured and discuss any existing coverage
- Seek out new clients and develop clientele by networking to find new customers and generate lists of potential clients
- Explain features, advantages and disadvantages of various products
- Communicate with underwriters and submit required forms to obtain binding coverage
- Ensure policy requirements are fulfilled, including any necessary medical examinations and the completion of appropriate forms
- Confer with clients to obtain and provide information when claims are made on a policy

December 2004 – March 2007

CSI Support & Development Inc.

Warren, MI

### Building Accountant

- Contributing to the successful completion of daily, weekly, month-end, quarterly, and annual close processes in a timely and accurate manner
- Providing support to team members and associates to assure all period goals are attained on a consistent basis
- Actively maintains and reconciles specific ledger accounts
- Performing research and appropriate follow-up on reconciling items
- Reconciliation of multiple bank statements and inter-company accounts
- Prepared accrual of expenses, journal entries and ad hoc reports
- Review and preparation of monthly financial reports, including prior month comparisons
- Assist with preparation of annual budgets

March 1999 – December 2004

Thomson Gale (Cengage Learning)

Farmington Hills, MI

### Installation Specialist

- Responsible for data input of customer information into online administration systems
- Maintain updates to customer information based on contract changes
- Established configuration of customer's installations based upon sales orders
- Researched and provided customer usage statistics upon request
- Processed internal correspondence
- Maintained ongoing communication with Sales, Sales Support, Billing, Technical Support and Sales Application Engineers to ensure customer satisfaction
- Assisted with special projects as requested

### Senior Accounts Payable Coordinator

- Coordinated day-to-day workflow of accounts payable department
- Assisted in program specific training as well as cross-training of team members
- Maintained vendor updates and changes
- Resolved questions, troubleshoot resolutions and act as "go to" person for staff
- Ensured tasks are completed and payable functions are met according to established deadlines & guidelines
- Processed check-runs on weekly basis
- Initiated U.S. and foreign wires as requested

### Electronic Billing and Support Specialist

- Senior person for Cambridge and Foster City sales division
- Assisted in department training including problem resolution and contract administration
- Reconciled sales system and trial invoice report
- Maintained verbal and written communication with external and internal stakeholders
- Performed quality checks for electronic orders
- Processed electronic, print and cancellation orders
- Set-up new accounts as requested

January 2003 – March 2004

New Mt Moriah MHC

Pontiac, MI

### Trustee/Bookkeeper

- Processed vendor invoices, credit/debit memos and check requests
- Reviewed documentation, verified transaction information for completeness and accuracy
- Investigated and resolved account discrepancies and implemented tracking of NSF checks
- Assisted in the processing of cash disbursements by verifying transaction information
- Scheduled and prepared disbursements and payments for distribution/ mailing
- Reconciled activity and prepared requests to issue stop payments, payments and adjustments
- Prepared weekly financial reports
- Maintained financial security by following internal accounting controls, including confidentiality
- Obtained appropriate approvals prior to invoice posting/ payment, reviewing invoices for unusual items and/or identifying expenditures inconsistent with policies
- Maintained financial historical records of accounting documents
- Reconciled multiple bank accounts; reconciled ministry expenses

## EDUCATION

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The American College of Financial Services	King of Prussia, PA	Retirement Income Certified Professional November 2019
Walsh College	Troy, MI	Certificate of Personal Financial Planning December 2012
Walsh College	Troy, MI	Master of Science in Management March 2007
Eastern Michigan University	Ypsilanti, MI	Bachelor of Business Administration June 2001

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

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Series 6	Life and Health	Series 63
Series 65		

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Prudential Pathways Program

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